

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Saltville Historic District

other names/site number 295-0001

2. Location

street & number Main Street, First Avenue, Palmer Avenue, Panther Lane, Stadium Drive, and Henrytown Road.

not for publication N/A

city or town Saltville

vicinity N/A

state Virginia

code VA

county Smyth

code 173

Zip 24370

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)


Signature of certifying official

2/2/02
Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined eligible for the
National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined not eligible for the National Register

 removed from the National Register

 other (explain):

Signature of Keeper_____
Date of Action**5. Classification****Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 104 </u>	<u> 48 </u> buildings
<u> 3 </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> 6 </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> 2 </u> objects
<u> 107 </u>	<u> 56 </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

 N/A **6. Function or Use****Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u> COMMERCE/TRADE </u>	Sub: <u> Business </u>
<u> COMMERCE/TRADE </u>	<u> Restaurant </u>
<u> GOVERNMENT </u>	<u> Post Office </u>
<u> RELIGION </u>	<u> Church </u>
<u> SOCIAL </u>	<u> Theater </u>
<u> SOCIAL </u>	<u> Meeting Hall </u>
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u> Single Dwelling </u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u> COMMERCE/TRADE </u>	Sub: <u> Business </u>
<u> COMMERCE/TRADE </u>	<u> Restaurant </u>
<u> GOVERNMENT </u>	<u> Post Office </u>
<u> RELIGION </u>	<u> Church </u>
<u> SOCIAL </u>	<u> Meeting Hall </u>
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u> Single Dwelling </u>
<u> VACANT </u>	<u> Not in Use </u>

7. Description

ARCHITECTURE
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
COMMERCE
INDUSTRY

Period of Significance 1892-1950

Significant Dates 1896 (town's incorporation)

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder T. Buckler Chequior

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository: Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 187

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 17 431840 4081780 2 17 432220 4081380

3 17 432380 4080800 4 17 431030 4080790

 See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Gibson Worsham, principal

Organization: Gibson Worsham, Architect

date May 15, 2000

street & number: 3145 Yellow Sulphur Road telephone (540) 552-4730

city or town Christiansburg state VA zip code 24073

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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7. Summary Description and Integrity Statement:

The town of Saltville, Virginia, is an important industrial center in Smyth County in mountainous southwest Virginia. The center of the historic salt and plaster industry in the region, the town is located in the northwest section of Smyth County in the Little Mountain range. The district comprises a significant portion of the surviving historic commercial and residential center of Saltville. Saltville is laid out in a small valley around the historic well fields, a flat and marshy area from which the salt brine essential to local industries was extracted. The district includes the relatively intact commercial and institutional properties lining the principal blocks of Main Street and Palmer Avenue at the northeastern end of the valley and the domestic structures to the southwest surrounding the well fields and a locally significant historic golf course.

The approximately 187-acre district contains 107 primary resources, including three contributing sites. No properties were previously listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Of the primary resources, 85 (79%) are contributing and 23 (22%) are noncontributing. Fifty-five secondary resources are also included in the district, including six noncontributing structures and two noncontributing objects. Of these secondary resources, 22 (40%) are contributing and 33 (60%) are not.

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Narrative Description

Prehistory (to 1607)

The rich prehistoric significance of the district is documented in the results of many archaeological investigations in the Saltville vicinity. The **Well Fields (295-0001-093)** are included in the boundaries of the proposed historic district. No prehistoric sites were documented as part of this survey.

European Settlement to Society (1607-1752)

No standing or belowground sites from the Settlement Period were documented as part of this survey.

Colony to Early National Period (1753-1830)

The community was largely centered outside the current historic district boundaries before the late nineteenth century. The salt production wells and furnaces were, however, in the area of the **Well Fields (295-0001-093)** and the **Saltville Golf Course (295-0001-094)** within the district. Recent archeological excavations in the area of the golf course have revealed the well-preserved subsurface remains of a large salt manufacturing facility, probably an early location of the Preston Salt Works. The Preston salt operation began in 1788 and extended well into the nineteenth century. The evidence found probably dates from the late eighteenth-century era. Additional evidence of the extent of salt manufacturing will be uncovered in the future.

Antebellum Period (1831-1860)

Similarly with the previous period, other than the remains of salt production works, no sites dating from the Antebellum Period were identified within the district boundaries. The 1850 **Office Building (295-0016)** was relocated to a site within the district in 1973, but the building, while effectively representing an antebellum-era salt production office building and serving as a museum, retains little physical integrity. The gabled, one-story, building is simply detailed.

Civil War (1861-1865)

The Saltville area, although the object of considerable effort on the part of Federal troops to capture and destroy and of Confederate troops to defend, retains little physical evidence of that era. The destruction of the extensive Civil War-era saltworks was only temporary, although

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Narrative Description (continued)

subsurface remains may be uncovered in the well fields area that will reveal its full extent.

Reconstruction and Growth (1866-1916)

Modest Industrial Growth (1866-1891)

The expansion of the Saltworks during the post-war era under the direction, after 1868, of the Holston Salt and Plaster Company, resulted in considerable growth in the area just west of the district and near the county line. Amenities included stores, schools, a hotel (the Palmer Inn), a church shared by the different denominations, and housing. Virtually nothing remains of the physical form of the town of this era.

Modern Company Town (1892-1916)

Saltville was still a village in 1892 when the Mathieson Alkali Works purchased the Holston Salt and Plaster Company. Due to the size of the operations and the large work force needed, Saltville became a "company town." Essentially everyone living in Saltville worked for the Mathieson Alkali Works and the company constructed company houses and provided all of the services in the town, including the hospital, post office, schools, markets, etc. The new town was set up at the northeastern end of the well fields near a junction of roads and near the new plant site on the North Fork of the Holston River. Saltville today is a result of the establishment of the Mathieson Alkali Works. In 1894, the substantial Mathieson Alkali Office Building (295-0009) and plant were constructed. The company store (1895) and a hotel were built near the depot. Churches were built on lots procured from the company by the congregations.

Essential for the functioning of a company town was the company store. The location for this was selected at the eastern end of the valley, away from the previous community center and at the principal railroad crossing near the new site of the railway depot. The two-story brick store, built about 1895, housed a hospital on the second floor and backed up to the railroad line for ease of delivery. The hip-roofed building faced Main Street and contained a drug store at the southwest end. Display windows in the form of two-story bays flanked a central entrance. A two-story porch was added soon after, spanning the southwest end of the building.

The new town was established around the large rectangular plot of land surrounding the depot and freight station, although it was many years before the streetfronts around the depot lot were completed. Main Street was the name given the street that ran along the northwest side of the

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Narrative Description (continued)

well fields and crossed the railroad tracks in front of the company store to continue northeast out of the valley. For many years most buildings were built along Main Street or the major roads that ran out from it to other communities.

Today, the commercial center of town, bounded by Palmer Avenue and Main Street, consists of one- and two-story brick commercial buildings. These buildings are simple in form with flat parapet roofs and minimal detailing. The company store, located at the head of the square created by the depot property, and the passenger and freight stations, located in the center of the square between Palmer Avenue and Main Street, are now gone. These, with the Mathieson Alkali plant, were the principal focus of residents' daily activities for the first several decades of the community's growth. Since the company owned all the land, other forms of commercial development were limited and there was no formal plat of the town drawn or filed with the county clerk. The town grew slowly from the company store and around the railroad lot to form a roughly rectangular commercial district with open land in the center (now a parking lot and park). The Hotel Saltville, a domestic-scaled lodging house, and several churches and schools, soon joined the company buildings.

The first commercial buildings were located in a cluster around the company store. The earliest surviving commercial building is the **First National Bank of Saltville (086-0009)**, a dramatically ornate limestone building that must have contrasted strongly with the hulking form of the large company store across the street. Many of the company officers were the same as the bank trustees, so the location and the form of the bank not only mirrored contemporary sturdy bank design practices, but also undoubtedly reinforced the company's vision of what the town should be. The bank, constructed of local limestone in the Beaux-Arts style, reflects the influence of the 1893 Columbian Exposition on institutional designs.

The production plant for the company, built in 1894, was situated nearby on the North Fork of the Holston River. The Mathieson Alkali Office Building (295-9), a two-story brick building outside the district, features a low-hipped roof with a molded wood cornice, corbelled brickwork, and segmental-arched windows with contrasting keystones and corner blocks. Although the town was incorporated in 1896, most of the land continued to belong to the company for many years.

The churches in Saltville are sophisticated examples of the leading styles of church architecture. The two in the district are **St. Paul's Episcopal Church (295-0018)** and the **Madam Russell Memorial United Methodist Church (295-0017)**, both located on West Main Street. The 1896 St. Paul's Episcopal Church is a sophisticated version of the Carpenter Gothic that reflects the influence of the

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Narrative Description (continued)

English congregation associated with the Mathieson-Alkali Works. This frame church, with its decorative shingling and woodwork, has a cruciform plan and intersecting-hip roof with central belfry that is unusual for the area. Baltimore architect, T. Buckler Chequior, designed the church. It was based on a copy of the 1891 plans for Christ Episcopal Church in Big Stone Gap, Virginia. The St. Paul's building features only minor differences in some of the detailing. Both Episcopal churches have received minor alterations, including added vestibules. St. Paul's Church was raised onto a new foundation at mid-century. The Madam Russell Memorial Church is designed in the Gothic Revival style and constructed of local limestone. The front facade features a steep gable roof and a large Gothic-arched window of stained glass framed by a bell tower with entrance vestibule at one corner and a turret with lancet windows at the other corner.

Company-sponsored housing forms the predominant building type in the district. These houses, which were built and owned by Mathieson Alkali, are often referred to in groups of similar houses and named either for the plant in which the residents worked, such as "Government Plant Row" or by other names descriptive of the houses or their residents, such as "British Row," "Seven Row" and "Tin Can Alley." These houses, with the exception of the managers' and supervisors' houses, were vernacular in form with minimal detailing. The size and type of house were related to the rank of the resident in the factory. These company houses took the form of single houses as well as duplexes, representing some of the only multiple-family dwellings in the county.

The four duplexes known as the British Row Houses on Allison Gap Road (just outside the historic district) were some of the first houses built by the Mathieson Alkali Works for the English that came to help set up the plant. These ca. 1894 two-story frame duplexes feature a side-gable roof with central peak and projecting entrance bay. The cornices were bracketed with scroll-sawn detailing. The British Row Houses #2 and #4 (295-023 and 295-024) retain this original detailing while the others have been remodeled. The **Duplex House (295-0001-025)** at 105 Court Street in the district is very similar and dates from the same period, although it stands alone in a section of single-family houses.

The company house type found in the dwelling at **203 Henrytown Road (295-028)**, near the Henrytown Road neighborhood was built in ca. 1915. Also found outside the district at Seven Row (295-004 and 295-005) and at 801 and 803 East Main Street, these one 1/2-story frame houses were three bays wide with a side-gable roof, central peak, and one-story, three-bay porch. The house at 503 West Main Street (295-013) is a larger, two-story version of this same form. The houses along Henrytown Road and on Main Street near its intersection with Henrytown Road are among the smallest in the repertoire of the company builders. These fifteen frame houses are

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Narrative Description (continued)

of one 1/2 stories, with two-room plans and a gabled ell to the rear. Wide front porches shelter the off-center front doors and the upper floors lit by a central gable containing paired windows. Good examples include the houses at **201 Henrytown Road (295-0001-004)**, **203 Henrytown Road (295-0028)**, and **409 West Main Street (295-0030)**.

The houses closer to the downtown on West Main Street, including the house at **311 West Main Street (295-026)** and the house at **111 Court Street (295-0001-027)** are two-story examples of the right-angle, intersecting-gable T-plan form. The Colonial-Revival house at **661 First Avenue (295-0001-084)** is an example of the larger and more sophisticated houses built in the 1920s and 30s surrounding the **Saltville Golf Course (295-0001-094)** for the management of the Mathieson Alkali Chemical Company.

"N.P. Row" (for Nitrogen Plant) was built in about 1914 by the company for managers of the new Nitrogen Products Plant on what is now an extension of First Avenue along the southeast side of the portion of the well fields that would become the golf course. The small dwellings are said by residents to have been purchased from Aladdin Homes, a popular mail-order company, and many embody then stylish Craftsman and Colonial Revival-style forms and details. Among the best preserved is the house at **623 First Avenue (295-0001-079)**, a tiny frame Dutch Colonial dwelling of one 1/2 stories with a kicked gambrel roof and an elegantly detailed side porch.

The **St. Paul's Episcopal Church Rectory (295-0001-072)** was also located along the row, at 618 First Avenue. The gable-fronted bungalow is provided with paired and triple nine-over-one sash windows and is sheathed with wood shingles. Most of the houses in Saltville were provided with outbuildings to suit the domestic arrangements of the period. The predominant outbuilding type in the town, many examples of which survive, is the weatherboarded, frame, one-room structure to the rear of many houses. These service buildings, usually equipped with a brick flue and one or two six-over-six sash windows, apparently filled a role as washhouses. Good examples include **113 Court Street (295-0001-028)** and **620 First Avenue (295-0001-071)**.

World War I to World War II (1917-1945)

The community experienced renewed industrial growth after World War I. This expansion resulted in the construction of numerous residences in the town, in particular the area outside the district to the southeast of East Main Street, along First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth avenues, and Preston Lane, Worthy Boulevard, and Easy Street. Many of these dwellings embodied elements of the nationally popular Craftsman style and took the form known as the bungalow.

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Narrative Description (continued)

Brick and stone joined wood frame and weatherboard as popular construction materials.

Lots for commercial buildings were provided along Main Street across from the depot. Some of these were built of wood and were later replaced by the current masonry building stock. Several stores, including the **Old Saltville Post Office (295-0001-044)** and the commercial building at **129 West Main Street (295-0001-049)**, are similar in design and detailing. These one- and two-story, shed-roofed, brick stores follow nationally recognized prototypical forms, with storefronts joining to form a common and consistent streetfront. One of the earliest commercial buildings to survive in the historic district is the **Saltville Savings Bank (295-031)** of 1920, a much simpler brick commercial building than the earlier **First National Bank of Saltville (86-009)**, and one that prefigured the reduced expectations embodied in the plain commercial buildings of the second quarter of the century. Despite its modest appearance, this bank, with its simple brick storefront facade and stepped parapet, attested to the prosperity and growing population of the town in the early 20th century. The Victory Theater (now demolished) had been built on a lot directly opposite the company store on Railroad Street, next to the 1903 First National Bank. Entrance to the brick building was through a wide masonry arch.

The company took upon itself to build the locally mandated public buildings expected in any town, including the public schools and the post office. The schools, which stood within the district boundaries on West Main Street, have been demolished. The 1931 Colonial-Revival **Saltville Post Office (295-014)**, now used for the library, is one of the only public buildings constructed by Mathieson Alkali that survive. The post office is a simply detailed Classical building with arched front windows. It replaced the earlier **Old Post Office Building (295-0001-044)**, a plainly detailed commercial-style structure on West Main Street. A small town hall with a larger jail stood on the northeast corner of Railroad Street (Palmer Avenue) and Second Avenue (Panther Lane) by 1933 (Sanborn Map 1925-1933), where the Family Dollar Store is now located.

In the late 1930s, the company opened up more land to commercial use along Railroad Street (now Palmer Avenue). Lots were developed and much of the current stock of commercial building was constructed after World War Two. These include the **Piggly-Wiggly Store (295-0001-068)** and the double commercial building at **133-135 Palmer Avenue (295-0001-067)**. The new commercial buildings, though almost devoid of decorative feature, followed the form used for stores in the town for many decades. A shed or slightly curved bow truss roof fronted by a parapet sheltered an undifferentiated open interior, with high product visibility and convenient access provided by plate glass storefronts and inset entryways.

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Narrative Description (continued)

The growth of transportation-related structures in the district followed the rise of the automobile. The **Griffen Motors (295-0001-055)** car dealership was built the 1920s to sell Chevrolet automobiles in the region. The well-built structure features parapet gable ends and long sidewalls punctuated with metal windows separated by buttresses supporting the trusses inside the gable roof. The adjacent **Gas Station (295-0001-056)** at 208 Palmer Avenue is also an architectural asset to the district. The low, one-story, brick building has wide overhanging eaves, a hipped roof, and fixed two-light windows.

Post-War Company Town (1946-1970)

The post-war period saw, at first, the continuation of the company town and its tightly hierarchical structure. As the industrial operations changed they did not require large numbers of new employees from outside the community so that there were few new residential structures built in the town center. The housing from the earliest days of the Mathieson Alkali Company continued to serve most of the worker population, although these were gradually modernized, with plumbing and telephones and with asbestos shingle siding and roofs. The commercial functions of the town changed as stores were built and expanded in the downtown area, mostly along Palmer Drive. These include the one-story brick building now housing the **Family Dollar Store (295-0001-64)** on Palmer and the two-story, brick office building with Moderne-style detailing, now the headquarters of the **Olin Corporation (295-0001-063)** on Stadium Drive. The principal new public building was the impressive **Saltville Town Hall (295-0001-059)** of 1949, a one-story Colonial-style structure with a central pedimented porch and cupola. It stands on the wedge-shaped lot where Panther Lane and Palmer Drive intersect.

Post Company Era (1971-present)

After the end of the company town era in 1970, rather than invest in new buildings or demolish the existing stock of commercial buildings, merchants and building owners chose, in many cases, to modernize the exteriors of the existing building stock. New buildings, noncontributing due to age, include the one-story building housing **T.J.'s Restaurant (295-0001-060)** and the **Gas Station (295-0001-058)** at 229 Palmer Drive. A few new houses have been built in the district. For the most part the builders of these made no attempt to harmonize with or continue the building traditions begun by the Mathieson Alkali Works. These noncontributing buildings include a log ranch-style house at **321 West Main Street (295B01-016)** and a small frame tract house at **337 West Main (295-0001-006)**.

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Site Inventory

Site Inventory

Properties in the inventory are organized by street and numerically by address. Entries list the name of the property, the approximate date of construction, secondary resources, and their VDHR survey number. Historic names are used when they can be substantiated. The sites listed below are identified by their address on the attached Saltville Historic District map.

Abbreviations used in the inventory include:

CB = contributing building
NB = noncontributing building
CS = contributing site
CSt = contributing structure
NSt = noncontributing structure
CO = contributing object
Ca. = circa

Inventory

COURT STREET

Intersection of Court and West Main Streets:

Court Street Park ca. 1895 (War memorial ca. 1990 **NSt**) 295-0001-0033 **CS**

This small grassy triangular park was created at the intersection of West Main Street and Court Street. It recently became the site of large war memorial. The brick memorial wall has the names of war dead inscribed. Painted murals of scenes from the war era are attached to the rear in glass-covered frames.

101: **House** ca. 1910 (Carport ca 1970 **NSt**) 295-0001-0023 **CB**

This two-story, frame, four-bay T-Plan dwelling has 6/6 replacement sash windows and a gabled asphalt shingle roof. The one-story porch across the front has been enclosed with modern jalousie windows, but a turned porch post and sawn bracket survive at southern corner. A two-story wing is located to the rear. A one-story, metal carport is located to the south side of the house.

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Site Inventory, Court Street (continued)

- 103: **House** ca. 1910 (garage ca. 1960 **NB**, chicken house ca 1930 **CB**) 295-0001-0024 **CB**
A two-story, frame, four-bay, T-Plan dwelling with 2/2 sash windows, standing-seam metal roof, and stuccoed foundation. Secondary structures include a one-story, shed-roofed, brick garage built into the bank beside the house and a frame, shed-roofed chicken house.
- 105: **Double House** ca. 1910 295-0001-0025 **CB**
A two-story, frame, four-bay, duplex dwelling with a gabled projecting central pavilion containing two doors. The house has 2/2 sash windows, metal pressed shingle roof, one-story, five-bay porch sheltering the entries, and internal chimneys between the front and rear rooms.
- 109: **House** ca. 1910 (Garage ca 1970 **NB**) 295-0001-0026 **CB**
A two-story, frame, four-bay, T-Plan dwelling with weatherboard siding, exposed rafter ends, 2/2 sash windows, gabled asphalt shingle roof, screened one-story, two-bay porch across the front with turned posts and sawn bracket at south corner, and a brick foundation. A frame, shed-roofed garage stands beside the house.
- 111: **House** ca. 1910 (Outbuilding ca 1910 **CB**) 295-0001-0027 **CB**
A two-story, frame, four-bay T-Plan dwelling with vinyl siding, 2/2 sash windows, gabled asphalt shingle roof, one-story, two-bay porch across the front with square posts, and a brick foundation. A one-story, frame, one-room outbuilding with six-over-six gable-end sash window and asbestos shingle siding is located nearby.
- 113: **House** ca. 1920 295-0001-0028 **CB**
A one 1/2-story Bungalow with two-bay central gabled porch on tapered wood piers on brick plinths, 1/1 sash, added aluminum siding, asphalt shingle roof.
- 115: **House** ca. 1955 (garage ca. 1960 **NB**) 295-0001-0029 **NB**
A one-story, gable-roofed, brick dwelling with paired sash windows, a projecting gabled element to the west end, and a one-story, two-bay porch with metal posts. A one-story, frame garage is located to the rear.

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Site Inventory, Court Street (continued) and First Avenue

- 117: **House** ca 1955 295-0001-0030 **NB**
A one-story, gable-roofed, brick dwelling with paired sash windows, a projecting gabled element to the west end, and a one-story, two-bay porch with wood posts.
- 119: **House** ca 1955 (garage ca. 1960 **NB**) 295-0001-0031 **NB**
A one-story, gable-roofed, brick dwelling with paired sash windows, a projecting gabled element to the west end, and a one-story, two-bay porch with wood posts. A one-story, frame garage is located to the rear.
- 121: **House** ca. 1930 295-0001-0032 **CB**
A two-story, three-bay, gable-fronted, frame bungalow with paired and triple sash windows and a brick foundation.

FIRST AVENUE

- 502: **Stone House** ca. 1930 295-0001-0069 **CB**
This three-bay, one 1/2-story, random rock-faced ashlar stone bungalow dwelling has a poured concrete foundation, a side-gable asphalt-shingle roof with shed dormers on front and rear, paired one-over-one sash windows throughout, partially exterior stone chimney off-center on the southwest side, and a massive porch across front and extending one bay to the northeast supported on large round stuccoed columns.
- 615: **House** ca. 1915 (outbuilding ca. 1915 **CB**) 295-0001-0083 **CB**
A one-story frame dwelling with gabled roof. A one-room, frame outbuilding (wash house?) is located to the rear.
- 616: **House** ca. 1915 (outbuilding ca. 1915 **CB**) 295-0001-0073 **CB**
A one 1/2-story frame Bungalow with gabled porch and paired and single sash (replaced), ornamental brackets in gables, off-centered door.
Contributing, frame, one-room outbuilding is located behind the house.

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Site Inventory, Court Street and First Avenue (continued)

- 617: **House** ca. 1915 (outbuilding ca. 1920 **CB**) 295-0001-0082 **CB**
This frame dwelling appears to be a one-story, gable-fronted bungalow with additions to side and rear, and 6/1 sash. A gabled porch at the entry has square posts and brick plinths. Decorative brackets under the eaves are covered in aluminum. A frame, one-story weatherboarded outbuilding stands to the rear.
- 618: **Episcopal Rectory** 1916 295-0001-0072 **CB**
A one-story, gable-fronted Bungalow with paired and triple 9/1 sash, wood shingle walls, and an asphalt shingle roof.
- 619: **House** ca. 1915 (Outbuilding ca 1930 **CB**) 295-0001-0081 **CB**
A one-story, three-bay frame dwelling with hipped roof, splayed wood siding, and paired sash windows flanking a central glass-panel door. A central porch over the door has a one-bay extension to the east. A small frame outbuilding (wash house) with flue stands to the rear of the house.
- 620: **House** ca. 1915 (outbuilding ca. 1915 **CB**, carport ca 1970 **NSt**) 295-0001-0071 **CB**
This one and 1/2-story frame Bungalow has narrow weatherboard, 1/1 sash, frame decorative brackets in gables, central porch with tapered columns with pilasters and square wood baluster rail. Secondary structures include a frame, one-room outbuilding (wash house) behind the house and a carport to the side.
- 621: **House** ca. 1915 (outbuilding ca. 1930 **CB**) 295-0001-0080 **NB**
A much-altered one-story, three-bay dwelling with hipped roof, paired sash windows. A small, frame outbuilding (wash house) with brick flue stands to the rear.
- 623: **House** ca. 1915 295-0001-0079 **CB**
A three-bay, one 1/2-story, frame, gambrel-roofed house with kicked roof, deep eaves carried on sawn brackets, it features an elegant side porch on the west end with paired columns.
- 624: **Superintendent's House** ca. 1915 295-0001-0070 **CB**
This one 1/2-story frame Bungalow has a gabled porch and dormers on the sides.
- 627: **House** ca. 1915 295-0001-0078 **CB**
This frame, one-story house is clad in weatherboard covered with vinyl.

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Site Inventory, First Avenue (continued) and Henrytown Road

- 631: **House** ca. 1915 295-0001-0077 **CB**
This frame, one-story Bungalow has a hipped roof.
- 635: **House** ca. 1915 (outbuilding ca. 1915 **NB**) 295-0001-0076 **NB**
A much-altered, two-story, frame, gable-fronted dwelling with an enclosed porch. A one-story frame outbuilding with stone and aluminum siding added, located at the rear of the house has also been severely altered.
- 639: **House** ca. 1915 295-0001-0075 **NB**
Much-altered, one-story, frame dwelling.
- 641: **House** ca. 1915 295-0001-0074 **CB**
One-story, frame, hip-roofed bungalow with one-over-one sash windows, a side chimney on an enclosed hip-roofed porch with casement windows, and a projecting bay window on south side.
- 661: **House** ca. 1915 (garage ca. 1920 **CB**, shed ca. 1920 **CB**, playhouse ca. 1940 **CB**) 295-0001-0084 **CB**
This frame, two 1/2-story, three-bay dwelling has paired six-over-six replacement windows, a central doorway with sidelights and an elliptical fanlight, a two-story wing at south end, and a one-story porch at the north end. A one-story, one-bay porch at the center with paired replacement columns shelters the entry. Three large dormers light attic. Secondary structures include a frame, two-story garage with weatherboarded walls and pressed metal shingle roof, a frame, one-story shed with weatherboarded walls and pressed metal shingle roof, and a frame, one-story playhouse with weatherboarded walls, a one-bay porch with turned posts, a side gable roof with a central dormer, exposed rafter ends, and an exterior chimney.

HENRYTOWN ROAD

- 103: **House** ca. 1910 295-0001-0005 **CB**
This frame, one 1/2-story, three-bay, two-room dwelling has altered sash windows on the first floor (3/1) and original (6/6) on the second floor and an added shed to rear. An altered shed porch spans the front.

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Site Inventory, Henrytown Road (continued) and Lake Drive

- 200: **House** ca. 1910 295-0001-0003 **CB**
A one 1/2-story, three-bay, two-room dwelling with off-center door, 2/2 sash windows, projecting front gable with two windows (four-light), rear ell, central chimney, shed-roofed porch.
- 201: **House** ca. 1910 (shed ca. 1930 **NB**) 295-0001-0004 **CB**
A frame, one 1/2-story, three-bay, two-room dwelling with 6/6 sash, off-center door, central gable on front containing two four-light casements, and a central brick flue.
- 202: **House** ca. 1910 295-0001-0002 **CB**
A frame, one 1/2-story two-room dwelling with off-center entry, one-story, three-bay replaced porch with square posts, one-over-one replacement sash windows, and missing central chimney.
- 203: **House** ca. 1910 (shed ca. 1970 **NB**) 295-0028 **CB**
This one 1/2-story vernacular frame dwelling has a side gable roof with a central peak and a narrow boxed cornice and central ridge chimney. The one-story, three-bay porch has a metal shed roof supported by wood posts and a solid balustrade of vertical boards. The replacement door, which is slightly off-center, has six lights over two panels. The windows on either side are double-hung replacement sash with 3/1 lights. The smaller second-story gable windows appear to have double-hung sash with 1/1 lights. A one-story frame wing with intersecting gable roof and central ridge chimney extends out the back. The building is clad with weatherboards. A raised foundation of brick supports the dwelling. A modern frame shed stands to the rear of the house.
- 204: **House** ca. 1910 295-0001-0001 **CB**
A frame, one 1/2-story, two-room dwelling with an off-center door, 8/8 sash replacement windows, an interior central chimney, a shed-roofed porch, and a shed-roofed ell in rear.

LAKE DRIVE

- Lake Drive: **Well Fields** Prehistoric to 1950 295-0001-0093 **CS**
This site including salt wells, ponds, prehistoric and historic remains, and modern recreational paths.

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Site Inventory, Lake Drive (continued) and Palmer Avenue

Lake Drive: **Picnic Shelters** ca. 1980 295-0001-0091 **3 NB**

Two noncontributing, one-story picnic shelters, one with a brick chimney serving a fireplace. Noncontributing frame shed is located near the shelters.

PALMER AVENUE

109: **First National Bank of Saltville** 1902 086-0009 **CB**

This two-story, stone Classical Revival-style bank has a decorative parapet, molded cornice with full entablature, and recessed, arched entry with a pedimented door surround flanked by large Ionic columns.

111: **Saltville Post Office** 1931 (Storage building ca. 1960 **NB**) 295-0014 **CB**

One-story, brick, Colonial-Revival brick post office building with arch-headed windows and central door and parapet roof. A frame, one-bay storage building covered with an asphalt-shingle gable roof is supported by a poured concrete foundation at the rear of the post office.

123: **The Salt Theater** 1948 295-0015 **CB**

A brick commercial building with minimal detailing contains a large auditorium. It has been altered to serve as a museum in recent years.

127: **Piggly Wiggly Store** ca. 1945 295-0001-0068 **CB**

This brick, five-bay, two-story, shed-roofed commercial building with a parapet stepped up in the center to contain a brick panel. A soldier course runs across the front over the heads of five windows in second floor. The storefront has plate glass and aluminum that curve into the central pair of entry doors, sheltered by a metal awning and surrounded by black enamel panels. A door at the north end leads to the second floor.

133: **Commercial Building** ca. 1945 295-0001-0067 **CB**

A one-story, brick, double commercial building with larger unit to north with central inset entry. The unit with a similar entry to the north side possibly added. A canopy spans the front. The parapet features a central brick panel with small brick diamond ornament in the center, metal coping on parapet, and ceramic coping on sides.

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Site Inventory, Palmer Avenue (continued)

- 137: **Masonic Building** ca. 1945 295-0001-0066 **CB**
This two-story brick Masonic building has brick banding of varying lengths across front. Central, recessed, double-leaf entry to the first floor, plus single-leaf entry at one side to second floor, and paired 1/1 windows on second floor with concrete sills. The first floor was built to contain two commercial units. The front gable roof has weatherboard infill and a triangle vent at the apex.
- 141: **Deluxe Bar and Grille** ca. 1945 295-0001-0065 **CB**
This one-story, brick, commercial building has an inset central entry, a metal awning across front, a parapet featuring a central brick panel with a corbelled top, and strip pilasters on the sides.
- 142: **New Saltville Post Office** 1966 295-0001-0057 **NB**
A one-story post office with random ashlar veneer storefront, fixed windows with stone sills, flat roof, and rear loading dock with a flat metal roof.
- 145: **Family Dollar Store** ca. 1960 295-0001-0064 **NB**
Modern one-story, brick veneer store with metal storefront doors and windows.
- 208: **Gas Station** ca. 1925 295-0001-0056 **CB**
A one-story, five-bay gas station with wide roof overhang in front, four two-light fixed windows across the front with concrete sills, and an off-centered single-leaf entry with side lights and transom.
- 210: **Saltville Museum Building** 1967 (furnace 1967 **NSt**, bucket line ca. 1920 **NSt**, stone, 1925 **NO**, time capsule ca. 1990 **NO**) 295-0016 **NB**
This building was an office building for the pre-Mathieson saltworks. It was taken down and rebuilt on this site in 1967. The one-story, three-bay brick structure has a low, hipped roof and a plain box cornice. The exterior brick chimney has a corbelled cap. The facade features two double-hung round-head windows. The single-leaf door is constructed of vertical boards with a single light and a single-light rectangular transom. The brick is laid in 5-course American bond and has been reconstructed on a poured concrete foundation. As part of the museum function of the property, a reproduction stone salt furnace with two kettles, a display of two sections of the original bucket line for moving ore, a modern time capsule, and a stone block dated 1925 have been placed around the building.

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Site Inventory, Palmer Avenue (continued), and Panther Lane

214: Griffen Motors ca. 1925 295-0001-0055 CB

This one-story, brick car dealership has nine bays filled with factory sash windows along one side punctuated by cast stone capped buttress. Decorative brick gable ends receive the gable roof. The building is trapezoidal due to lot shape.

217: Saltville Town Hall 1949 (garage 1949 CB) 295-0001-0059 CB

This one-story, two-bay Town Hall has Colonial-style details including a central, one-bay, pedimented, entry porch on brick columns, a central brick tower in the form of a cupola. It also features three wrap-around windows on the corners. A one-story brick garage stands to the rear.

229: Gas Station ca. 1975 295-0001-0058 NB

One-story commercial building with strip windows above a masonry base, wide metal Mansart sides to the flat or shed roof, and a large canopy over the gas pumps to the south.

PANTHER LANE

200: Saltville Volunteer Fire Department ca. 1940 295-0001-0061 CB

A one-story, stone, fire station building with three garage-door bays across the front, a stepped stone parapet with metal coping on the sides, and a metal single leaf door with narrow transom on the side.

222: Physician Care of Saltville ca. 1965 295-0001-0062 NB

A one-story, brick, office building with a shallow hipped roof, and strip of fixed, four-light windows across the front on a brick base. A small hipped wing to the north contains the entry and lobby with a plate glass window on the north end.

228: APCO Building 1964 295-0001-0063 NB

A two-story, brick, office building with a shallow hipped roof and a storefront with a central plate glass window flanked by the door to the first-floor office on the left and to the second-floor offices on the right, the whole framed by a Moderne-style canopy on tapered supports.

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Site Inventory, Stadium Drive and West Main Street

STADIUM DRIVE

Stadium Drive **Golf Shelters** ca. 1930 295-0001-0092 **2 CB**

Two shelters for golfers in rainy weather, holding four parties each. Each consists of a cross-shaped masonry wall crowned with a pyramidal roof.

113: **T.J.'s Restaurant** ca. 1965 295-0001-0060 **NB**

A one-story commercial building with strip windows above a masonry base, a wide overhanging flat roof, and a low profile.

228: **Garage/Studio Classics** ca. 1975 295-0001-0095 **NB**

A one-story, gable-fronted, brick garage with metal three-light windows, a shallow gabled metal roof, two metal garage doors in gable front, and commercial space on the side.

422: **Saltville Golf Course** ca. 1930 295-0001-0094 **CS**

This site serves as a golf course with historic form and landscaping. It was laid out on part of the well fields for the use of the management of the Mathieson company.

WEST MAIN STREET

105: **Building** ca. 1955 295-0001-0054 **NB**

A two-story, concrete-block, commercial building with 1/1-sash windows and a shed parapet roof.

115: **H&R Block Building** ca. 1940 295-0001-0053 **CB**

A two-story, stuccoed, commercial building with plain parapet shed roof, inset door in metal and plate-glass storefront, and 3/1 paired sash on the upper floors.

121: **Double Commercial Building** ca. 1930 295-0001-0052 **CB**

A two-story, brick, double commercial building with two units of equal size, each with central inset door in a metal and plate glass storefront. A concrete stringcourse separates the floors, with a row of soldiers at the window heads on the second floor and parapet. A stuccoed band extends across the facade just below the parapet. Metal casements on second floor.

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Site Inventory, West Main Street (continued)

- 125: **Commercial Building** ca. 1930 295-0001-0051 **CB**
This two-story, brick, commercial building has five 2/2-sash windows grouped in the second floor over a central entry flanked by plate glass and metal store windows. Concrete block was the material used on the sides of the building.
- 127: **Saltville Newspaper Office** ca. 1940 295-0001-0050 **NB**
This one-story, much-altered brick commercial building has stepped parapets on the sides and a standing seam metal roof. The door is inset.
- 129: **Commercial Building** ca. 1940 295-0001-0049 **CB**
A one-story commercial building with brick veneer facade, large plate glass windows flanking original paneled double door with transom. Brick soldier courses span the openings and bricks below the plain parapet form an ornamental row of squares.
- 131: **Roberts and Helton Furniture** ca. 1950 295-0001-0048 **CB**
A two-story, brick commercial building, shed-roofed with large plate glass storefront with inset entry, plain plastered interior, and metal awning windows on second floor.
- 137: **Commercial Building** ca. 1950 295-0001-0047 **CB**
This two-story, shed-roofed, brick commercial building has a large plate glass storefront with a single-leaf central entry, a brick parapet with three projecting courses of brick used as ornament, strip pilasters on sides, and vinyl covering over the center section including transom of storefront, replaced sash windows on second floor.
- 139: **Phillips Auto Supply** ca. 1925 295-0001-0046 **CB**
A two-story, shed-roofed, brick commercial building with a large plate glass storefront with inset central entry, plain plastered interior, and metal casement windows on second floor. The brick facade was apparently added to join two stores in about 1950.
- 141: **Levine's Clothing Store** ca. 1930 295-0001-0045 **CB**
This two-story, brick commercial building has a paneled parapet (stepped on the sides with a tile coping) concealing a shed roof, a band of six closely spaced three-over-one sash windows on the second floor, paired windows on the south side, and an altered first-floor storefront with two central plate glass windows flanked by the first-floor store entry on the north and the second-floor stair entry on the south side. The area around the storefront and the second-floor windows has been infilled with vinyl siding.

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Site Inventory, West Main Street (continued)

- 145: **Saltville Savings Bank** 1920 295-0031 **CB**
This two-story, brick commercial building is an unusual example of a brick bank building with a commercial storefront design.
- 149: **Old Saltville Post Office** ca. 1920 295-0001-0044 **CB**
This one-story double commercial building with brick facade, large plate glass windows flanking replacement metal double door with a transom in larger south unit, a single door and window with transoms and wooden frames in the northern unit. Inset brick forms small decorative panels in the parapet, similar to the building at 295-0001-0049. This building may have been sheathed in brick veneer in ca. 1940.
- 151: **Saltbox Café and Grill** ca. 1965 295-0001-0043 **NB**
A one-story, gable-fronted commercial building with plate glass windows above masonry base and flanking a central entry, a shallow gable-front roof, and one-story sections to north.
- 207: **Madam Russell Methodist Church** 1898 (Mme. Russell House 1974 **NB**) 295-0017 **CB**
This limestone Gothic Revival-style church has an intersecting gable roof with a central three-story tower and a one-story corner turret. The original section consisted of a front gable flanked by the corner tower and turret. The building as expanded has two front gables, a gabled dormer, and an intersecting side gable, each sheathed in diamond-patterned wood shingles. The three-story, central tower (originally located on the corner) is square in form with a pyramidal roof and a decorative finial. The main entrance to the sanctuary is located in the first story of the tower. A 1974 reconstruction of the 1788 Madam Russell House, razed in 1908, is located to the east of the church and directly behind the original house site. The one 1/2-story, two-room, V-notched log structure has a side-gable roof of wood shingles with exposed rafters and a false plate, two exterior end stone chimneys, and a one-story log kitchen with a gable roof is connected at the rear by a breezeway.
- 215: **House** ca. 1910 (shed ca. 1960 **NB**) 295-0001-0042 **CB**
A frame, one-story, two-room dwelling similar to its neighbors at 215 and 217 West Main Street, with replacement 1/1 sash windows, a three-bay, one-story porch across the front with replacement posts, and an ell with a metal roof in the rear. A noncontributing, one-story, concrete-block, shed-roofed shed stands to the rear.

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Site Inventory, West Main Street (continued)

- 217: **House** ca. 1910 (outbuilding ca. 1920 **CB**) 295-0001-0041 **CB**.
This frame, one-story, two-room dwelling is similar to its neighbor at 215 West Main, with its replacement 1/1 sash windows (early 6/6 sash in gable end second floor), modern door, hip-roofed, three-bay porch across front with replacement wood posts, chimney behind the roof ridge, and one-story ell. A small, frame, one-story outbuilding (wash house) stands to rear.
- 219: **House** ca. 1910 (outbuilding ca. 1970 **NB**) 295-0001-0040 **CB**
A two-story, four-bay, frame T-plan dwelling with 1/1 sash, a gable roof with added asbestos shingles, a one-story porch with square posts, and an ell to the rear. A small, concrete block gambrel-roofed outbuilding stands to the rear.
- 221: **House** ca. 1910 (wash house ca. 1920 **CB**) 295-0001-0039 **CB**
A two-story, four-bay, frame T-plan dwelling with 2/2 sash, a gable roof with added asbestos shingles, a one-story porch with square posts, and an ell to the rear. A small, frame, vertical-board-sheathed wash house with a flue and flush board siding stands near the house.
- 223: **House** ca. 1910 295-0001-0038 **CB**
A two-story, four-bay, frame T-plan dwelling with 2/2 sash, a gable roof with added asbestos shingles, a one-story porch in the angle of the T with wood posts, and an ell to the rear.
- 225: **House** ca. 1910 (garage ca. 1955 **NB**, outbuilding 1955 **NB**) 295-0001-0037 **CB**
A two-story, frame, four-bay, T-plan dwelling with 2/2 sash windows, gable roof with early added asbestos shingles, a one-story porch in the angle of the T with altered porch posts, and an ell to the rear. A concrete block outbuilding stands to the rear.
- 227: **House** ca. 1910 295-0001-0036 **CB**
A two-story, four-bay, frame T-plan dwelling with 2/2 sash, a gable roof with added asbestos shingles, a one-story porch with square posts, and an ell to the rear.
- 229: **House** ca. 1910 295-0001-0035 **CB**
A two-story, frame, four-bay, T-plan dwelling with 1/1 replacement sash windows, a one-story, two-bay shed porch with a simple balustrade, asphalt shingle gable roof, and an ell to rear.

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Site Inventory, West Main Street (continued)

- 231: **House** ca. 1910 (garage ca. 1970 **NB**) 295-0001-0034 **CB**
A two-story, four-bay, frame T-plan dwelling with 2/2 sash, a gable roof with added asbestos shingles, a one-story porch in the angle of the T with modern metal posts, and an ell to the rear with an added porch. A modern, one-story, frame garage stands nearby.
- 233: **St. Paul's Episcopal Church** 1896 295-0018 **CB**
This important frame church is designed in the Carpenter Gothic style with frame construction, pointed-arch windows, and decorative woodwork. The weatherboarded, one-story building has a cruciform plan with an intersecting-hip roof and central belfry. The shingled belfry has a square base with round-arched, louvered vent openings and a pyramidal roof with a cross above. The steeply pitched intersecting hipped roof has a box cornice with wide eaves supported by decorative knee braces and a gabled wall dormer on each side and the rear. The added, one-bay entrance vestibule has a steeply pitched gable roof with vertical beaded-board siding in the gable end and a double-leaf entrance. A pointed-arch transom of stained glass tops the entrance. Gabled wall dormers on the sides and rear contain the tops of pointed-arch windows with stained glass and tracery. The remaining side windows are lancet windows with diamond-shaped panes of leaded glass.
- 303: **House** ca. 1910 (wash house ca. 1920 **CB**) 295-0001-0022 **CB**
A two-story, frame, four-bay, T-plan dwelling with 2/2 sash windows, a gabled asphalt-shingle roof, an enclosed, one-story porch across the front with modern windows inserted and tall modern steps to either side, and a brick foundation. Contributing, frame, gable-roofed wash house.
- 305: **House** ca. 1910 (garage ca. 1970 **NB**, wash house ca. 1920 **CB**) 295-0001-0021 **CB**
A two-story, frame, four-bay T-plan dwelling with 2/2 sash windows, a gabled asphalt shingle roof, enclosed one-story porch across front with modern windows inserted and tall brick steps with stepped bulkheads to either side, and a brick foundation. A one-story, shed-roofed, brick garage is built into the bank beside the house. A frame, gable-roofed wash house stands nearby.
- 307: **House** ca. 1910 295-0001-0020 **CB**
A two-story, frame, four-bay T-plan dwelling with 2/2 sash windows, a gabled asphalt-shingle roof, and a one-story porch across the front with modern metal replacement posts. A two-story wing is located to the rear.

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Site Inventory, West Main Street (continued)

- 308: **Saltville Medical Center** ca. 1980 295-0001-0090 **NB**
A one-story, brick medical office building with metal banding at the top.
- 311: **House** ca. 1900 (garage ca. 1970 **NB**, two sheds ca. 1980 **2NB**) 295-0026 **CB**
This two-story, frame dwelling has a simple form with an intersecting-gable roof, minimal Queen Anne-style detailing in the cornice and porch supports, a standing seam metal roof with scroll-sawn cornice brackets, a one-story, six-bay, hip-roofed porch supported by turned wood columns with scroll-sawn cornice brackets, and two-over-two double-hung sash windows with louvered wood shutters. The building is clad with asbestos shingles. A raised brick foundation supports the structure. A concrete block garage with shed roof and two bays is located behind the dwelling, near two pre-fabricated metal sheds.
- 313: **House** ca. 1920 295-0001-0019 **CB**
This one 1/2-story, two-bay, frame house has a central flue, a one-story porch across the front and wrapping around the north side with a hipped corner, replaced paired and single one-over-one sash windows, a large, gabled wall dormer on the front inset into the porch roof to hold a pair of two-over-two sash windows, and a two-story rear wing.
- 315: **House** ca. 1920 (shed ca. 1970 **NB**) 295-0001-0018 **CB**
This one 1/2-story, two-bay, frame house has a central flue, a one-story porch across the front and wrapping around the south side with a hipped corner, paired and single one-over-one sash windows, a one-story polygonal bay on the north side, and a large, gabled wall dormer on the front holding a pair of one-over-one sash windows. A two-story wing extends to the rear. A one-story gable-roofed frame shed stands nearby.
- 319: **House** ca. 1920 (barn ca. 1920 **CB**, outbuilding ca. 1920 **CB**, chicken ho. ca. 1930 **CB**) 295-0001-0017 **CB**
This one 1/2-story, two-bay, frame house has a central flue, a one-story porch across the front and wrapping around the north side with a hipped corner, original chamfered posts, and square baluster railing, paired and single two-over-two sash windows, and a large gabled wall dormer on the front inset into the porch roof to hold a pair of two-over-two sash windows. A two-story wing extends to the rear. Outbuildings include a one-story frame barn with vertical board siding, a side gable roof, and a small pyramidal-roofed central cupola vent; a small, frame outbuilding, probably a meathouse, with a gable roof and vertical board siding; and a small, frame chicken house with asphalt roofing on the gable roof, weatherboard siding, a north gable entry, and a six-over-six sash window.

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Site Inventory, West Main Street (continued)

321: **Log House** ca. 1980 295-0001-0016 **NB**

Log, one-story, three-bay dwelling with two gable dormers, a rustic five-bay, one-story porch across the front, paired one-over-one sash windows flanking the center door, and a central stone chimney.

323: **House** ca. 1910 (carport ca. 1960 **NS**) 295-0001-0015 **CB**

Frame, four-bay dwelling with two-story T-bar and one-story T-stem, asphalt shingle gable roof, two-over-two sash windows, interior brick chimney, brick foundation, and hip-roofed, one-story, two-bay porch with metal replacement posts.

325: **House** ca. 1910 295-0001-0014 **CB**

Frame, four-bay dwelling with two-story T-bar and one-story T-stem with added dormer window, asphalt shingle gable roof, two-over-two sash windows, interior brick chimney, brick foundation, and hip-roofed, one-story, two-bay porch with metal replacement posts.

327: **House** 295-0001-0012 **CB**

A three-bay, frame, two-room dwelling with an off-center entry door, replacement one-over-one sash windows, asbestos shingle roof, a central front gable with two windows (four-light), rear ell, an interior chimney, and a hip-roofed porch.

329: **House** ca. 1955 (garage ca. 1970 **NB**) 295-0001-0013 **NB**

A frame, two-story, shed-roofed building with one-over-one sash now used as a house with a one-story, metal-clad garage nearby.

331: **House** ca. 1910 295-0001-0011 **CB**

A three-bay, frame, two-room dwelling with an off-center entry door, added six-over-six sash windows, added asbestos shingle siding and roofing, a central front gable with two windows (four-light), rear ell, an interior chimney, and a shed-roofed porch.

333: **House** ca. 1910 (garage ca. 1920 **CB**) 295-0001-0010 **CB**

A three-bay, two-room dwelling with off-center entry door, two-over-two sash windows, a central front gable with two windows, two rear ells, and an altered shed-roofed porch.

334: **House** ca. 1910 295-0001-0089 **CB**

A frame, two-story, three-bay, two-room dwelling with off-center entry door, a one-story hip-roof rear shed, a three-bay, hip-roof front porch, and a gable in the center front.

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Site Inventory, West Main Street (continued)

335: **House** ca. 1910 295-0001-0009 **CB**

A one 1/2-story, three-bay, two-room, dwelling with an off-center entry door, two-over-two sash windows, a central front gable with two windows (four-light), hip-roofed shed across rear, an interior chimney, and a shed-roof porch.

336: **House** ca. 1910 (garage ca. 1960 **NB**) 295-0001-0088 **CB**

This frame, two-story, three-bay, two-room dwelling has a central flue, two-over-two sash windows, a gable in the central front, an off-center entry, and a wide hip-roofed shed on the rear. A concrete block garage stands to the rear.

337: **House** ca. 1960 295-0001-0008 **NB**

A frame, two-story, gable-roofed building with one-over-one sash windows.

338: **House** ca. 1980 295-0001-0087 **NB**

A frame, one-story, modular house with eight-over-eight sash windows and a five-bay porch across the front.

402: **House** ca. 1910 (outbuilding ca. 1920 **CB**) 295-0001-0086 **CB**

This frame, two-story, three-bay two-room dwelling has a central flue, one-over-one replacement sash windows, a gable in the center front, an off-center entry, and a wide hip-roofed shed on the rear.

403: **House** ca. 1910 (garage ca. 1925 **CB**) 295-0001-0007 **CB**

This three-bay, frame, one-story, two-room dwelling with an off-center entry door, two-over-two sash windows, a projecting front gable with two windows, and a rear ell. It is similar to other company-built houses, including 200 Henrytown Road. A two-story, gable-fronted, rock-faced concrete-block garage with an original garage door and a wooden exterior stair stands to the rear of the lot.

404: **House** ca. 1910 (outbuilding ca. 1920 **CB**) 295-0001-0085 **CB**

A frame, two-story, three-bay, two-room dwelling with a central flue, two-over-two sash windows, a gable in the center front, an off-center entry door, and a wide hip-roofed shed on the rear. A frame board-and-batten-clad outbuilding (meathouse) stands to the rear.

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Site Inventory, West Main Street (continued)

405: **House** ca. 1900 (shed ca. 1970 **NB**) 295-0029 **CB**

This one 1/2-story, weatherboarded frame dwelling has a side-gable roof with a central front gable and a central ridge chimney. The one-story, three-bay porch has a metal shed roof supported by wood posts and a solid balustrade of vertical boards. The windows on either side of the off-center entry are double-hung replacement sash with three-over-one lights. The smaller, second-story gable windows appear to be double-hung sash with one-over-one lights. A one-story, frame wing with an intersecting gable roof and a central ridge chimney extends out the back. A concrete block shed covered by a standing seam metal shed roof and provided with a horizontal wood door stands to the rear of the dwelling.

407: **House** ca. 1910 295-0001-0006 **CB**

A three-bay, two-room, frame dwelling with off-center entry door, two-over-two sash windows, a projecting front gable with two windows (four-light), a rear ell, an interior chimney, and a shed-roofed porch.

409: **House** ca. 1920 (garage ca. 1970 **NB**) 295-0030 **CB**

This frame, one 1/2-story, bungalow-style dwelling has a side-gable roof and a large central dormer with a gable roof. The roof has a narrow box cornice with overhanging eaves. A one-story, three-bay porch with a low, hipped roof extends across the front, supported by wood posts. The single-leaf door, which is off-center, contains two glass lights over eight panels. The double-hung sash windows are paired with three-over-one lights. One pair of windows has been replaced with a nine-light fixed window. A one-story, frame wing with a shed roof extends across the back. The building is clad with aluminum siding. A low foundation of brick supports the structure. A concrete-block garage with a gable-front roof is located off the north corner of the house. The structure has a double-leaf wood door.

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Statement of Significance

The proposed Saltville Historic District appears to meet the standards for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C as an historic residential and commercial area exhibiting the early twentieth-century development of a company town and regional industrial center, with dates of significance extending from 1892 to 1950. As a company town, Saltville reflects the intentional development of a community around the salt industry and the Mathieson-Alkali Works from 1892 to 1930, during which time new, popular building designs gradually replaced traditional forms, although there was remarkable continuity of form and location for the various corresponding building types. A further period of significance extends from 1931 to 1950, when many significant new structures were built as the company released land for construction of privately owned commercial buildings. A significant date is 1896, the year of the town's incorporation. The town includes domestic, commercial, government, educational, religious, recreational, and industrial resources. These resources were either built directly by Mathieson-Alkali or indirectly through its employees that constituted the majority of the population of the town. Although the Mathieson-Alkali Works, which later became Olin Corporation, are no longer operating, the community retains its identity as a company town.

The predominant historic period represented by the surveyed resources is that of Reconstruction and Growth (1866-1916), reflecting the era of Saltville's founding in the late nineteenth century, during which time industrial growth transformed the community from a village to a thriving company town. Properties related to the commercial, governmental, religious, social, transportation, agricultural, planning, and domestic themes were documented, but single dwellings and commercial buildings constitute the majority of the resources identified. Other building types include multiple dwellings, mixed-use buildings, a fraternal lodge, churches, gas stations, post office buildings, a town hall, a park, a golf course, and a salt extraction field.

The proposed boundaries, based on the visual continuity and physical integrity of the district, include only the southern half of the historic area of Saltville. Most of the buildings are significant as industrial resources due to their association with and construction by an industrial concern. In addition, the district's resources include eighty-one architecturally significant buildings, two closely related to the Transportation theme, two linked to the Religion theme, one to the Social theme, two to the Recreation theme, four to the Government/Law/Politics theme, one to the Community Planning theme, nineteen to the Commerce theme, fifty-seven to the Domestic theme, one to the Subsistence/Agriculture theme, one to the Military theme, and one to the Technology theme.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

Historical Background

Prehistory (to 1607)

Smyth County, particularly the area around Saltville, has been the site of numerous archaeological explorations, which have yielded an abundance of information on prehistoric animal and human life in the area. The Salt Lick or Buffalo Lick, which was surveyed in 1748, was granted to Charles Campbell in 1753. The earliest reference to archaeological artifacts in Saltville is found in Thomas Jefferson's 1787 *Notes on Virginia* in which he mentions a mastodon tooth sent to him by Arthur Campbell. This is one of the earliest recorded references to a fossil of a large Ice Age mammal found in North America. Excavations in the 1960s and 1970s revealed fossils of such Ice Age mammals as the ground sloth, mastodon, woolly mammoth, horse, caribou, and musk oxen. Some of these now extinct animals are known to have been present until about 10,000 years ago, indicating that they coexisted with the early Paleo-Indians of the area.

The earliest human inhabitants of Smyth County were the Paleo- Indians, hunters and foragers from the Stone Age. These early Indians lived in small, family-size groups and followed their food sources without establishing permanent settlements. As with the early animals, the salt springs were a favored gathering place. Archaeological remains of common tools testify that there were numerous Paleo-Indians in the area as Amore fluted projectile points are known from Saltville and nearby areas than from any other region of Virginia west of the Blue Ridge.¹

The extinction of the large Ice Age mammals in 7000 BC marked the beginning of the Archaic Period, characterized by specialized tools for hunting smaller mammals. Many examples of these tools, including the bola, notched and grooved axes, spear-throwers, knives, chisels, etc. were found in Smyth County representing the presence of Indians during this 6000 year period.

European Settlement to Society (1607-1752)

The Smyth County area was settled in the mid-eighteenth century as part of the division of the lands on the western waters after their opening in the mid-1740s. The earliest settlers in the county are said to have been Stephen Holsten, who claimed 1300 acres on the Middle Fork before 1747, Charles Sinclair on the South Fork, and Samuel Stalnaker on the Middle Fork. The first surveying expedition was led by James Patton in 1748 to enter lands granted to Patton in 1745. His colleagues on the trip included Thomas Walker, John Buchanan, and Charles Campbell. Tracts were entered on the South and Middle Forks of the Holston. The area that was to become

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Statement of Significance (continued)

Chilhowie was originally known as the Townhouse after Patton designated it as the site of a future settlement in 1748, while the site of Marion was surveyed as John Buchanan's Royal Oak tract and Saltville was claimed by Campbell as the Buffalo Lick.²

Colony to Early National Period (1753-1830)

Raids mounted against the British settlements during the French and Indian War reversed the settlement trend; as William Preston observed in 1763,

All the valleys of Roanoke River and along the waters of Mississippi are depopulated except Captain English (Ingles) with a few families on New River, who have built a fort among whom are Mr. Thompson and his family alone remaining.³

Permanent settlement of the region dates to the period following the French and Indian War as earlier settlers returned and new families felt safe to venture into the lands beyond the Alleghany. One of the earliest settlements was at the Royal Oak tract, purchased by John Campbell in 1765. A Stalnaker family was at the Town House tract by 1769. In 1770 Augusta County was subdivided to form Botetourt County, a portion of which, containing the area that would become Smyth County, became Fincastle County in 1773. In 1777 Fincastle was divided into Montgomery, Washington, and Kentucky counties. Lists of senators, representatives, sheriffs and judges compiled from the records of these counties indicate that the early settlers of the area figured prominently in the early government.⁴ The Campbell family provided the immediate region with much of its military and political leadership.

In 1789 the Virginia General Assembly ordered the opening of a new road over the Cumberland Mountains to Kentucky. Known as the Wilderness Road, this became the principal route traveled by large numbers of settlers moving west. The area grew rapidly in population in the post-Revolutionary period. Wythe County was formed from Washington County in 1790. A number of houses served as taverns or houses of entertainment along the Wilderness Road.

The area of Saltville was originally part of the Buffalo Lick tract granted to Charles Campbell in the mid-1700s. In 1788, William Russell, stepfather to the Campbell children, moved to the Salt Lick and dug one of the first salt wells, marking the beginning of the local commercial salt industry. Russell was soon followed by Arthur Campbell who developed the first iron furnaces. Salt production continued to increase towards the end of the eighteenth century as General John Preston, who had married Sarah Campbell, expanded the existing furnaces. The Prestons built an important

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Statement of Significance (continued)

frame house, which stood until recent decades just outside the district on a hill overlooking the flat, marshy area known as the **Well Fields [295-0001-0093]**. The Prestons and later operators of the salt works sunk wells in this area to bring up saline brine that was then reduced to from salt in iron kettles set in long masonry furnaces. William King established a competing operation in 1795. The modern King Salt Mine and Salt Park, located just over the Washington County line from Saltville and outside the district, is situated on the site of King's first salt mine. The furnace remains were unearthed in 1972 and have been reconstructed to resemble furnace operations during the nineteenth century.

A Methodist congregation with funds provided by the will of Elizabeth Henry Campbell Russell, a prominent convert built the first church in the Saltville area to the Methodist Church. Known as the Elizabeth Church, it was built in 1825. The structure, originally located at the northeast end of town near the Elizabeth Cemetery, is no longer standing.

Antebellum Period (1831-1860)

This period is marked by the formation of Smyth County in 1832. Named in honor of General Alexander Smyth, a prominent politician from the area, the new county was formed from portions of Washington and Wythe counties. Thomas Hume's land on the Middle Fork was selected as the site of a county seat, named in honor of General Francis Marion of Revolutionary War fame. The county's population in 1835 was between 6,000 and 7,000 persons, including 100 free blacks and 1400 slaves.⁵ Martins' Gazetteer mentions Saltville Post Office, the name said by him to derive from Preston's and King's salt works, scarcely forty feet apart, the one in Smyth and the other in Washington County. Saltville contained 100 persons, a sawmill and two gristmills.⁶ Smyth County's official population in 1839 was 8,162.

The need for better transportation routes was a primary issue of concern during this period. Southwest Virginians felt cut off from the markets of the eastern seaboard by the mountains and the lack of an effective internal transportation system. Prior to 1850, the best means for transporting goods to market was by bateaux from the North Fork to Tennessee. The frustration of the region's producers eventually resulted in the incorporation of the Southwestern Turnpike in 1846, a macadamized road which approximated the route of the old Wilderness Road. It extended as far as Seven Mile Ford in 1851 when work was suspended.⁷ The Virginia and Tennessee Railroad, chartered in 1849, eclipsed the Southwestern Turnpike. The railroad was complete to Bristol by 1856, and a branch line extended to Saltville. Commerce and industry grew at an accelerated pace after the opening of the railroad.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

By 1854, the county had seven sawmills, three iron furnaces, one iron foundry, one salt furnace, and two tanneries.⁸ The salt works probably profited the most from the construction of the railroad in 1856.

In 1846, Preston rebuilt the furnaces to be more efficient, and in 1847 he drained the area located where the well fields are today to increase production. George Palmer took over operations of the salt works in 1856 when the branch railroad line was constructed. By the time of the Civil War, the salt works consisted of 38 furnaces in operation with 2600 one-hundred gallon kettles boiling 24 hours a day to produce 250,000 bushels of salt a day.⁹ Palmer's ca. 1850 Office Building, now reconstructed as the **Saltville Museum Building (295-0016)**, is all that remains from this antebellum period of salt making. The plaster banks and gypsum deposits found nearby were also developed for the production of fertilizer during this prosperous time before the Civil War. A classical school was begun in Saltville in the Elizabeth Church, conducted by the Rev. William Bishop, a Methodist minister.¹⁰

Civil War (1861-1865)

Due to the northern barricade, many of the local industries flourished during the Civil War. Smyth County became a strategic point during the war due to the saltworks being the primary source of salt supply open to the Confederate Army.¹¹ The salt works also profited to the point that privateering supplies and extortion became a constant problem during the war years. The salt production was carefully rationed and each state in the Confederacy had its own furnace. By 1864, the furnaces were producing 4,000,000 bushels of salt a day. Saltville became the most heavily fortified non-military position in the South with forts and breastworks on every hill surrounding the valley. On October 2, 1864 General Burbridge and 3500 Union troops attacked Saltville but were soundly defeated. However, the Union troops returned on December 21 under General Stoneman's command and succeeded in destroying the salt works. However, the furnaces and kettles were not completely destroyed and would soon be back in operation.¹²

Reconstruction and Growth (1866-1916)

Modest Industrial Growth (1866-1891)

The population of Smyth County escalated after the war by 36% from a population of 8,952 in 1860 to 12,160 in 1880. With the repair of the transportation system and the eventual recovery from other war-related damages, it appears that Smyth County was to continue the period of

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Statement of Significance (continued)

prosperity that began before the Civil War. The bridges and railroad lines that were so vital to the county's prosperity were quickly repaired. The second half of the nineteenth century was a period of rail mergers and interstate commerce resulting from a rush to connect the resources of the west with the manufacturing and shipping points along the east coast. In 1870, the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad, which operated the branch line that served the salt works, was reorganized as the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Ohio Railroad, which was to become part of the Norfolk and Western Railway in 1881.

Local industries recovered from the setbacks of the war and reached a height of development during this period. In addition to the already established salt works, gristmills, and iron works, numerous new industries opened throughout the county. The Olympia Woolen Mill opened in 1870. The Preston and King salt works were merged in 1868 to form the Holston Salt and Plaster Company. The company employed about two hundred workers. The town grew as salt production was doubled from pre-war levels. Body's 1881 report listed a hotel (the Palmer Inn), the 1870 Union Church, stores, factories and a number of dwellings, many of which had been built by George Palmer of the Holston Salt and Plaster Company.¹³ The center of town during this period was further west towards the Washington County line.

Saltville received a high school in 1868, replaced by a larger and more modern building in 1876. Public education in Smyth County did not become generally available until the Underwood Constitution of 1869 mandated that Virginia open free public schools in the 1870-71 season. State funds were to match local tax monies. Judge D.C. Miller, who had begun teaching in the county in 1865, served as the county's first superintendent of schools. The growing religious requirements of the community were addressed by the construction, in 1870, of a union church that was shared by several denominations.

Modern Company Town (1892-1916)

The period leading up to the depression of 1894 saw rapid industrial speculation and growth in the region. In February 1881, the AM&O Railroad was sold to a private banking house in Philadelphia. The company was renamed the Norfolk & Western Railway and the track replaced with new steel rail which promoted increased industrial development. The new railroad introduced an era of coal and freight transportation, accelerated industrialization, and industrial/urban population growth. Widespread enthusiasm for the region's economic potential encouraged speculative development in western Virginia. Saltville, with its unusual industrial potential, attracted the attention of capitalists investing in the region.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

Saltville was still a small community when the Mathieson Alkali Works purchased the Holston Salt and Plaster Company in 1892. Importing Englishmen to set up the new alkali plants in Saltville, the establishment of the company brought a new infusion of culture to the area and extended a regional industrial and mining town-founding model to a well-established industry. The model of the company town was rapidly establishing itself across the Appalachian region as a practical way to provide services and housing to a rapidly increasing work force in a remote area. Paternalistic models of community were substituted for the regional community- and market-based patterns of development. Essentially everything needed to support the working and personal lives of the employee and his family was owned by the company, engendering a sense of belonging and worker loyalty extending for many years.

The company supplied dwellings suited to the rank and circumstances of the individual. While this was at first probably better housing than most workers were used to, as the end of the period of company ownership approached, the housing was not always kept up to contemporary standards of comfort and convenience. Residents indicate that this factor and favoritism to cooperative employees in the form of housing improvements increased a sense of bitterness among many. Access to plumbing and telephone service were carefully distributed for many years. At the same time, as at most company towns, chits were exchanged for goods at the company store, so that workers were often unable to escape binding debt to the company. The company store was discontinued many years before the successor firm, Olin Corporation, closed the plant, and it was torn down in the 1970s.

The ensuing economic downturn, which spelled permanent disaster or long-deferred hopes for many southwest Virginia boom towns, did not as seriously affect the established industries of Saltville. The financial panic that gripped the country in 1893 and the depression that followed did not prevent Mathieson Alkali from developing the town. Many highly capitalized industrial developments proposed in the region failed after 1893. The survival and continued growth of Saltville can be principally attributed to its rare product, location on a rail line, and the substantial nature of the owner. Unlike many regional boomtowns, Saltville would survive and continue for many years.

The company instituted a major shift from traditional salt production to a modern chemical industrial operation that exploited the unique deposits under the well fields. Salt production continued until 1906, when chemicals derived from salt and local limestone were used to make a number of salt by-products, including baking soda and caustic soda.¹⁴ Plaster had been a second major local industry from the middle of the previous century.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

The town of Saltville was incorporated in 1896 and quickly began to grow. In the ten years from 1900 to 1910, the population increased by almost 50% from 878 to 1,314. After the construction of the plant, the company began to build numerous company houses, a company store (with a hospital on the second floor), a new depot, the Hotel Saltville, its own school system, and a post office. In 1903 the First National Bank of Saltville was founded at a time when most small towns in the region expanded their participation in a cash economy. The Nitrogen Products Company began construction of a plant in 1914. Mathieson Alkali built Elementary and high schools (now demolished) on the northwest side of the railroad tracks on West Main Street within the district, continuing the tradition of public education begun in earlier periods. The building of a new high school in 1916 paralleled similar efforts throughout the region in the early twentieth century to make secondary schools more comprehensive and accessible.

Religious institutions in Saltville include the **St. Paul's Episcopal Church (295-0018)** and the **Madam Russell Memorial United Methodist Church(295-0017)**, both located on West Main Street. The 1896 St. Paul's Episcopal Church, a fine example of a popular ecclesiastical style, is one of the few buildings in the town for whom the architect can be determined. The congregation evidently received a copy of the 1891 plans for Christ Episcopal Church in Big Stone Gap, designed by architect T. Buckler Chequior of Baltimore.¹⁵ The St. Paul's building is a nearly identical version of that building, with minor differences of interpretation of some of the interior and exterior detailing. The Madam Russell Memorial Church was built in 1898 in memory of Elizabeth Henry Campbell Russell on the property of her log home in Saltville. Madam Russell, as she was called, was a leading force in the establishment of the Methodist Church in the region. The church is on the property of the Elizabeth Russell's two-room log house, which was torn down in 1908 and reconstructed near the same site in 1974. A parsonage also stood on the property at one time, as evidenced by an early photograph. This two-story, frame, Queen Anne-style dwelling has been demolished.

World War I to World War II (1917-1950)

Saltville prospered as an industrial community but seemed to reach an optimum population in the period, varying from 2,248 in 1920 to an all-time high of 2,964 in 1930. The First World War brought income to the town. In 1918, the United States government constructed a plant to produce sodium cyanide in Saltville. As labor was in short supply, the government also established a military base with 400 soldiers to construct and operate the plant. After spending \$2,000,000 on the project, the war ended before its completion and the plant was torn down.¹⁶

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Statement of Significance (continued)

Industries in Saltville continued to grow and prosper during the period between World Wars I and II. Inevitably, industrial activity remained Saltville's principal source of employment and growth during this period. Heavy industry dominated the landscape. A high bucket line crossed directly over the downtown area. The U.S. Gypsum Company bought the plaster plant, known as the Buena Vista Plaster Company, in 1923 and greatly expanded. A dry ice plant, the largest of its kind in the world at the time, was opened in Saltville in 1931. The Mathieson Alkali Works were also expanding at this time as reflected in the changing of the name to Mathieson Chemical Company in the 1930s. Increasing the levels of brine extraction from the well fields supported the high-volume production of a modern plant. Water was injected at high pressure into the salt deposits and then pumped out. Two tragic events related to these industries dampened their success during this period. On Christmas Eve 1924, the muck dam that held the alkaline wastes from manufacturing in Saltville broke, flooding the nearby community of Palmertown and killing 19 people. This was followed by a flash flood in 1926 that flooded the mines at the nearby U.S. Gypsum plant and killed six miners. The muck dam was rebuilt and continues to hold back large quantities of chemical waste.

In 1931, corresponding to the increasing provision at that time of new purpose-built and architecturally imposing post offices in medium-sized communities in the region, such as Wytheville, the company built the new **Saltville Post Office (295-0014)** with modest classically inspired detailing. The company enlarged the commercial area by opening up more of the land on the southeast side of the depot lot for commercial buildings. The rise of automobile transportation is indicated by the construction of an automobile dealership (**Griffen Motors, 295-0001-055**) and a gas station (**295-0001-056**) in the 1920s.

Civic, service, and social groups were established in the town during the period, including an American Legion post and Kiwanis and Lions clubs. None of the surveyed properties were associated with these groups. In the 1920s and 1930s, the company provided rooms for the Masonic lodge on the second floor of the now-vanished well field repair shop on West Main Street southwest of the historic district.¹⁷ A new **Masonic Lodge (295-0001-065)** was built in about 1945 in the row of commercial buildings on Railroad Street (Palmer Avenue). The two-story, brick building took a form employed in many fraternal structures in the region, with a commercial first floor and a second-floor meeting room. The Saltville Amusement Company opened the Saltville Theater in 1922. It was later known as the Victory Theater.¹⁸ This was replaced in 1945 when the **Salt Theater (295-0015)** was opened. Recreational needs of the community were met by athletic fields and swimming pools southeast of the town center.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

A golf course was laid out on a portion of the well fields in the late 1920s or 1930s. The **Saltville Golf Course (295-0001-0094)**, although off limits to all but management and their guests in the company era, is now one of the town's most attractive amenities.

Post-War Company Town (1950-1970)

Saltville continued to thrive as an industrial company town in the 1950s and 1960s, although its population, at about 2,500, had remained more or less the same since 1920, following a minor dip in 1940 to 2,145. The Thomas K. McKee Hospital was built in 1950 outside the boundaries of the proposed district to serve the community. In 1952, a chlorine plant was established and in 1954 Mathieson Chemical Company merged with the Olin Corporation to form the Olin-Mathieson Chemical Corporation. A hydrazine plant was constructed in 1961 and went on to produce the chemicals that powered the rockets in the Apollo 13 moon landing in 1969. In 1964, the traditional ties with and loyalty to the old Mathieson Alkali Works began to break as it became simply the Olin Corporation and the labor force became unionized. The first strike occurred in 1967. The Olin Corporation announced in 1970 that it was closing the plant due to environmental regulations and the national media covered the company town shut down. Despite offers from Olin Corporation, only about 24 of 1000 workers took advantage of the offer to be relocated.

Historical awareness of the importance of Saltville as an industrial community grew even as the company town era drew near its close and labor relations with the new parent company became bitter. The ca. 1850 office building now standing behind the post office in Saltville Museum Park, a remnant of the pre-Mathieson Alkali days of the Holston Salt and Plaster Works, was demolished and rebuilt to serve as the **Saltville Museum Building (295-0016)**. Originally located west towards Washington County where the early downtown was located, it was moved to a new location along the railroad tracks and Palmer Avenue and opened as a museum in the 1967.

Post Company Era (1971-present)

Saltville remains a tight-knit community and new industries, such as T.D. Wheel and PCS Phosphates, have been established as the town successfully recovers from its defunct company town status and gains independence. Many buildings were lost in the period before and after the closing of the Olin plants. These include the railroad stations, the company store, and schools. New buildings constructed during this period in the district include the **New Post Office (295-**

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Statement of Significance (continued)

0001-057). Most recently, the existing stock of commercial buildings have been rehabilitated and occupied by boutiques, specialty, and antique stores.

Local citizens have formed the Saltville Historical Foundation to conserve memory of the town's historic past and encourage heritage tourism through the preservation of historic objects and their presentation through regularly scheduled events. To the same end, the town and county governments have worked closely with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to identify strategies for achieving historic preservation goals in the community.

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Verbal Boundary Description

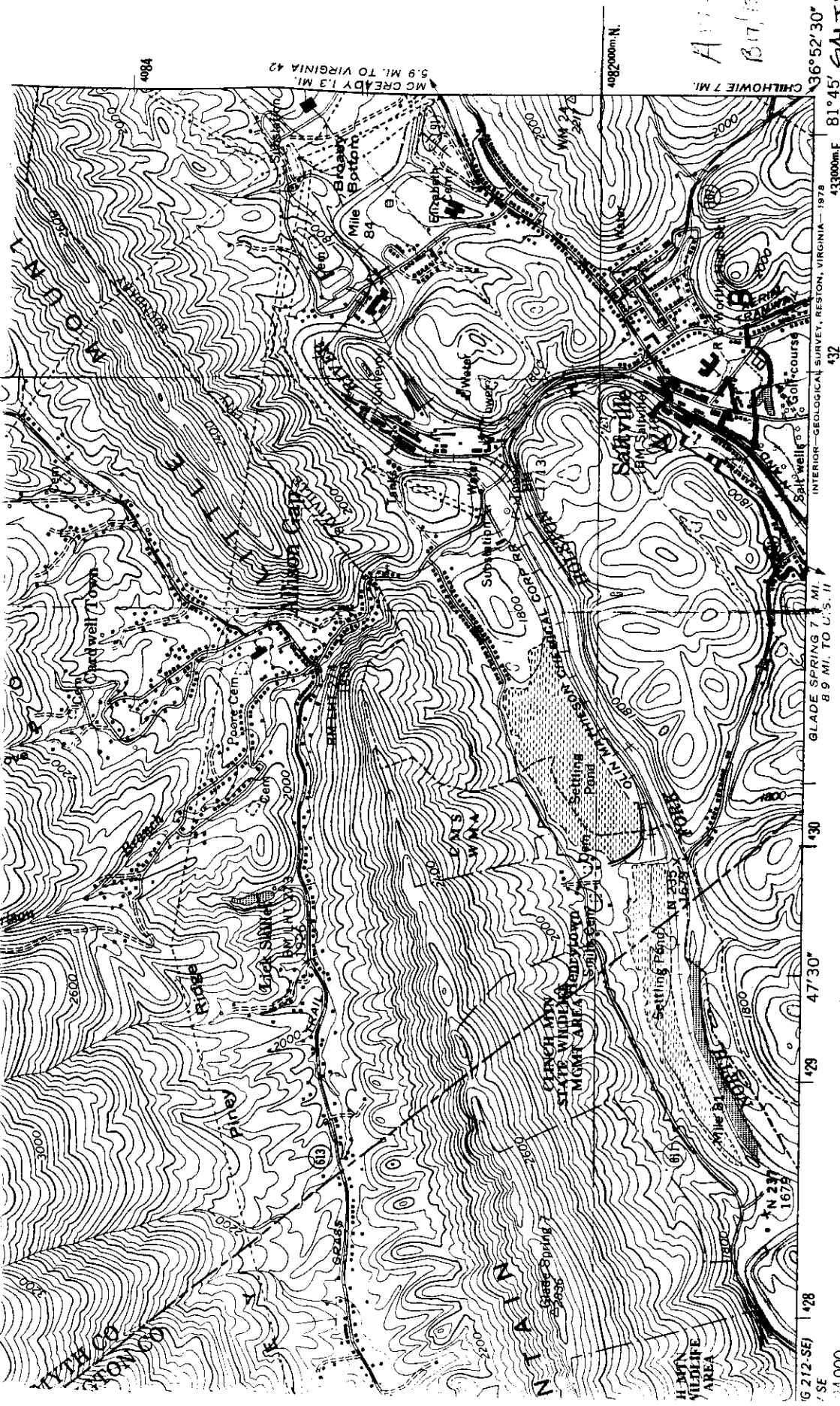
The solid black line on the accompanying reduced Town of Saltville map indicates the boundaries of the Saltville Historic District. (1" = 500' MAP)

Boundary Justification

The boundaries were selected to include all structures that contribute to the historic character of the district, and to exclude areas of visual change in the post-1949 era.

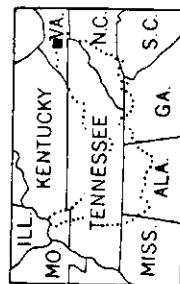
DRAFTING & TECHNICAL SUPPLIES, INC.
594 ROANOKE STREET P. O. BOX 1598
SALEM, VIRGINIA 24153
540-387-2200 FAX 540-375-3931

Handwritten notes:
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B 17-20-240/4081-20
299-0001
SALTVILLE H.D.
SALTVILLE, VA
CHILHOWIE 218-5W
4657 SW



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty Poor motor road
 - Medium-duty Wagon and jeep track
 - Light-duty Foot trail
 - U. S. Route
 - State Route
- In developed areas, only through roads are classified



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Revisions shown in purple and recompilation of woodland areas compiled by the Geological Survey in cooperation with Commonwealth of Virginia from aerial photographs taken 1969 and by the Tennessee Valley Authority from aerial photographs taken 1976. This information not field checked Map edited 1978.

NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
R. COLORADO, 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
ES. CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903
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AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



VAL 40 FEET
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